

Name _____

English teacher _____

I know why the caged bird sings
by Maya Angelou

A free bird leaps on the back
Of the wind and floats downstream
Till the current ends and dips his wing
In the orange sun's rays
And dares to claim the sky.

But a BIRD that stalks down his narrow cage
Can seldom see through his bars of rage
His wings are clipped and his feet are tied
So he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with a fearful trill
Of things unknown but longed for still
And his tune is heard on the distant hill for
The caged bird sings of freedom.

The free bird thinks of another breeze
And the trade winds soft through
The sighing trees
And the fat worms waiting on a dawn-bright
Lawn and he names the sky his own.

But a caged BIRD stands on the grave of dreams
His shadow shouts on a nightmare scream
His wings are clipped and his feet are tied
So he opens his throat to sing.

The caged bird sings with
A fearful trill of things unknown
But longed for still and his
Tune is heard on the distant hill
For the caged bird sings of freedom.

Bonus (+5) Circle one example of personification.

Bonus (+5) Underline one example of alliteration.

1. What is the author's attitude in this poem? (Complete sentence)
2. How many stanzas does this poem contain?
3. What can you infer the word *stalks* means as it is used in line 6? (Complete sentence)
4. Write the simple subject of line 13 here:
5. Write the verb of line 13 here:
6. Highlight one example of sensory detail in pink.
7. Highlight a prepositional phrase within lines 14-18 in yellow.
8. Highlight 7 nouns in the last 5 lines of the poem in green.
9. Describe the tone shifts that occur in this poem. (Complete sentences)
10. So, why does the caged bird sing? (Complete sentences)
11. What are your thoughts on any historical connections for this poem?
12. In what ways can you relate with this poet?